

Message Text

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45

ACTION PM-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NEA-10 EUR-25 CIAE-00 DODE-00

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-20 SAM-01 DRC-01 /110 W

----- 029085

R 251230Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5730

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

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USIAC

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS:

SUBJECT: SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

REF: UNCLAS STATE 031796, 035187

1. USIS DREW ON REFERENCED GUIDANCES TO RESPOND TO SUNDAY POST QUESTIONS ON BALANCE OF FORCES IN INDIAN OCEAN. POST DEVELOPED PAGE-ONE STORY FEBRUARY 24 UNDER HEADLINE "SOVIET SUBS IN INDIAN OCEAN." STORY LED OFF WITH "INFORMED MILITARY SOURCES HAVE REVEALED THAT THE RUSSIAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ALSO INCLUDES ADVANCED VERSIONS OF SOVIET ATTACK SUBMARINES." SOURCE NOT IDENTIFIED.

2. DAILY NATION, SEEKING ITS OWN STORY FOR MONDAY EDITIONS, CALLED FOR CONFIRMATION. USIS REPLIED ANY COMMENT OF SOVIET NAVAL ACTIVITIES PROPERLY SHOULD COME FROM SOVIET EMBASSY. DAILY NATION SAID SOVIET EMBASSY HAD NO COMMENT. USIS AGAIN STUCK WITH GUIDANCE. RESULT
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WAS EDITORIAL FEBRUARY 25 CITING REPORTED SOVIET SUB-

MARINE PRESENCE (TAKEN FROM POST STORY) BUT WITH THEME THAT INDIAN OCEAN SHOULD REMAIN ZONE OF PEACE FREE OF BIG POWER NAVAL MANEUVERING. DAILY NATION ALSO DEPLORED PROPOSED EXPANSION OF DIEGO GARCIA FACILITIES.

3. KENYAN INTEREST IN BIG POWER NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN THE INDIAN OCEAN HAVE HEIGHTENED ON THE BASIS OF NEWS ITEM ABOUT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS IN DAR ES SALAAM OVER THE AMERICAN NAVAL PRESENCE AND EXPANSION OF THE DIEGO GARCIA FACILITY WHICH THE U.S. USES. NAIROBI AND DAR ES SALAAM PRESS CONFERENCE STATEMENTS BY BRITAIN'S SIR ALEX DOUGLAS-HOME TO THE EFFECT THAT AMERICAN UNITS IN THE INDIAN OCEAN ARE A FRACTION OF WHAT THE SOVIETS HAVE RECEIVED NO COVERAGE IN THE KENYAN MEDIA. SOME LETTERS TO EDITORS WARNED OF SOVIET INTEREST IN AFRICA; OTHERS SAID THE AMERICANS WANT TO BRING AFRICA INTO THEIR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE; STILL OTHERS WANTED ALL BIG POWER FLEETS OUT OF THE INDIAN OCEAN.

4. ABC CORRESPONDENT BILL BRANNIGAN SAYS HIS COVERAGE OF ETHIOPIAN NAVY DAY AT MASSAWA INCLUDED FLEET COMPARISONS, DIEGO GARCIA AND OTHER ASPECTS OF INDIAN OCEAN STORY. CUSHING

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